

# Assemblyman **PAUL KORETZ**

## Forty-second Assembly District

*proudly representing the communities of West Hollywood, Beverly Hills, Los Angeles, Century City, Westwood, Bel Air, Brentwood, West Los Angeles, Hollywood, Hancock Park, Universal City, Studio City, and Sherman Oaks*



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**Contact: Bart Broome**  
**916-319-2042**  
**415-203-7924 (cell)**

### **KORETZ LAUDS DAVIS DECISION TO SIGN DOMESTIC PARTNER BILL**

(Los Angeles) Assemblyman Paul Koretz (D-West Hollywood) today praised Governor Gray Davis for his decision to sign AB 205 (Goldberg) The Domestic Partners Rights and Responsibilities Act of 2003. Koretz, along with the other members of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Caucus, is a joint author of the bill and has actively supported its passage.

Clearly pleased, Assemblyman Koretz said, "The Governor's signing of AB 205 will be a landmark event for the LGBT community, this state, and the nation. Governor Davis has shown courageous leadership by supporting Assemblymember Jackie Goldberg's hard-fought effort to protect gay and lesbian families."

AB 205 will expand most of the rights and responsibilities of marriage to the more than 20,000 domestic partners registered with the California Secretary of State. Currently, the bill is pending before the Senate Committee on Appropriations, but is expected to be passed by the Legislature and on the Governor's desk within the next few weeks.

A long time advocate for gay and lesbian rights, Koretz authored legislation similar to AB 205 in the last legislative session that would have brought Vermont style Civil Unions to California. Mr. Koretz and the LGBT Caucus which includes Assemblymembers Goldberg, Kehoe, Laird, Leno, and Senator Kuehl, decided to set aside Civil Union and work to expand domestic partnership because it is a term that has been accepted by most Californians.

"Current domestic partnership law is woefully inadequate at dealing with issues of fairness and compassion when tragedy strikes gay families. Child custody, child support, and community property are all mechanisms that protect children and families when things go wrong. In supporting this legislation, Governor Davis will be extending these vital protections to gay and lesbian families," said Mr. Koretz.

"Governor Davis has shown strong leadership in the advancement of equal rights for LGBT Californians. He has signed legislation that created domestic partnerships at the state level, protects gay kids from harassment in schools, strengthened our hate crimes law, and recently signed AB 196 prohibiting gender discrimination in housing and employment," said Assemblyman Koretz.

“Today’s announcement by Governor Davis that he will sign AB 205 underscores that LGBT Californians and their supporters have no better friend than Davis. Under Republican leadership, California trailed other states in the expansion of gay and lesbian rights. Davis’ support for equal treatment under the law for all people has made California a gay rights leader on the national stage,” noted Koretz.

According to the 2000 Census, Mr. Koretz’s hometown of West Hollywood weighs in at nearly 20% of all couples being same-sex partners, ranking third in the nation behind the gay resort towns of Provincetown, MA and Guerneville, CA.

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